

Amendment To The Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. -18. (cancelled).

19. (currently amended) A franking machine comprising:

a unit for generating franking data and a unit for printing data connected to said data generating unit and adapted to receive franking data therefrom,

said printing unit including at least one member for printing data and means for receiving printer control signals,

wherein the franking machine includes:

means for obtaining data enabling unique identification and authentication of the print member by the data generating unit in a first communication mode,

means for generating a signature of the franking data by the data generating unit,

means for encrypting the signature of the franking data by the data generating unit using an encryption key determined using the obtained data that enabled identification and authentication of the print member,

means for sending the franking data and the encrypted signature to the printing unit in a second communication mode and for including a control signal with printing control signals, and

means for decrypting the encrypted signature by the print member.

20. (original) The franking machine according to claim 19, wherein the print member includes means for authenticating franking data

21. (original) A franking machine according to claim 19, wherein the print member includes means for verifying the integrity of the franking data.

22. (original) A franking machine according to claim 19, wherein the print member includes at least one tag identifying said print member which communicates data identifying said member to the data generating unit by radio waves when an electromagnetic field is applied to it.
23. (previously amended) A franking machine according to claim 22, wherein the identification tag includes a substrate fixed permanently to the exterior of the print member and communication means on the substrate.
24. (original) A franking machine according to claim 19, wherein the data-generating unit includes a circuit for receiving identification data.
25. (previously amended) A franking machine according to claim 22, wherein the data-generating unit includes an RF transceiver for communicating in the first communications mode.
26. (previously amended) A franking machine according to claim 19, wherein the decrypting means of the print member obtains data identifying said print member.
27. (original) A franking machine according to claim 19, wherein the print member includes a data processing unit that includes the decrypting means.
28. (previously amended) A franking machine according to claim 19, wherein the decrypting means are fixed to a thin and flexible printed circuit that is fixed to the print member, wherein the printed circuit is sufficiently flexible to bend easily and sufficiently thin to be installed on a standard inkjet printer cartridge without compromising installation of the cartridge in a standard inkjet printer associated with the cartridge.

29. (previously amended) A franking machine according to claim 27, wherein the data processing unit is fixed to a thin and flexible printed circuit that is fixed to the print member, wherein the printed circuit is sufficiently flexible to bend easily and sufficiently thin to be installed on a standard inkjet printer cartridge without compromising installation of the cartridge in a standard inkjet printer associated with the cartridge.
30. (original) A franking machine according to claim 19, wherein the print member is an inkjet printer cartridge including at least one print head.
31. (currently amended) A method of securing data in a franking machine that includes a unit for generating franking data and a unit for printing data connected to said data generating unit and adapted to receive franking data therefrom, said printing unit including at least one member for printing data and means for receiving printer control signals, comprising:
- obtaining data uniquely identifying and authenticating the print member in a first communication mode by the data generating unit,
 - generating a signature of the franking data by the data generating unit,
 - encrypting the signature of the franking data by the data generating unit using an encryption key determined using the obtained data uniquely identifying and authenticating the print member,
 - sending the franking data and the encrypted signature to the printing unit in a second communication mode and sending a control signal using the printing control signals, and
 - decrypting the encrypted signature by the print member.
32. (previously presented) A franking machine according to claim 19, wherein the decrypting means are fixed to a printed circuit comprising PTF polymer that is fixed to the print member.

33. (previously presented) A franking machine according to claim 27, wherein the decrypting means are fixed to a printed circuit comprising PTF polymer that is fixed to the print member.
34. (previously presented) A franking machine according to claim 19, wherein the decrypting means are fixed to a printed circuit comprising PTF polymer that is approximately 0.125 mm thick and that is fixed to the print member.
35. (previously presented) A franking machine according to claim 27, wherein the decrypting means are fixed to a printed circuit comprising PTF polymer that is approximately 0.125 mm thick and that is fixed to the print member.
36. (previously presented) A franking machine according to claim 19, wherein the decrypting means are fixed to a printed circuit comprising a substrate and at least one circuit having a total thickness less than 1.5 mm.
37. (previously presented) A franking machine according to claim 27, wherein the decrypting means are fixed to a printed circuit comprising a substrate and at least one circuit having a total thickness less than 1.5 mm.
38. (previously presented) A franking machine according to claim 19, wherein the decrypting means are fixed to a printed circuit comprising a substrate and at least one circuit having a total thickness from 1.5 mm through 2 mm.
39. (previously presented) A franking machine according to claim 27, wherein the decrypting means are fixed to a printed circuit comprising a

substrate and at least one circuit having a total thickness from 1.5 mm through 2 mm.

40. (previously presented) A franking machine according to claim 19, wherein the decrypting means are fixed to a printed circuit comprising a substrate and at least one circuit having a total thickness from 1.5 mm through 2 mm.
41. (previously presented) A franking machine according to claim 27, wherein the decrypting means are fixed to a printed circuit comprising a substrate and at least one circuit having a total thickness from 1.5 mm through 2 mm.
42. (previously presented) A franking machine according to claim 19, wherein
the first communications mode utilizes a first communications channel; and
the second communications mode uses a second communications channel.
43. (previously presented) A franking machine according to claim 42, wherein
the first communications channel is a wireless communications channel; and
the second communications channel is a wired communications channel.
44. (previously presented) A franking machine according to claim 19, wherein the print member includes at least one tag identifying said print member and wherein the tag is permanently attached to the print member such that attempting to remove the tag will render it inoperative.